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CHAIRMAN'S CHAT

In preparing for my reflective evening presentation on 'My Cut and Splice Days of Film Making', I have, by necessity, been diving back into my vast collection of 8mm ciné films generated by my father and myself since the end of the 50's.

A few of these films were previously copied by me onto Betamax video some years ago using my C5, which I am pleased to say still works, although I did take the precaution of transferring them to VHS some time later. Some of my chosen films had not, however, been transferred to video, so I needed to dust off my Bolex M8 projector with its precious and ever dimming lamp.

By trial and error my approach to transferring ciné to video is to film a small projected image (~40cm diagonal) onto a good quality ice white wall mounted card. In my latest attempts my video camera has been mounted directly in front of the projector with its lens in vertical alignment

with the projected beam and with its height adjusted so that it just avoided encroaching on the beam. In this way image distortion is minimised. I used the camera in VTR mode with its signal being fed to tape in a separate Sony miniDV VCR via firewire cable. A 14in TV was used for monitoring purposes and conveniently positioned immediately below the projected image.

Prior to transfer, I take the precaution to check the condition of the film and thoroughly clean the projector and film gate. The projector also needs to be warmed up prior to use and its focus adjusted by pre-running the film. The video camera also needs to be manually focused initially on full zoom, with a printed sheet attached to the screen, and then reframed so that the blurred edges, resulting from film projection, are just out of shot as viewed on the TV monitor. And then with the film re-threaded and care taken not to disturb the projector focus, you are ready

to go. My projector speed is not fixed so I have the added complication of needing to keep an eye on a strobe disc, illuminated by a neon light, to maintain the film speed of 16fps. As a user of Standard 8 there is no sound on the actual film. Any sound track you cared to generate in those days was recorded on tape and this applied in our case but that's another story. With the low light capability of current day video cameras I find that the resultant captured image is beneficially brighter compared to that being projected. Unfortunately, the clarity that we are accustomed to with our TVs sadly does not come across but it's much better than nothing.

Having got the film on video tape, computer editing now comes into play and this is when your sound track can be added with precision, and the poor splices, when the film jumps in the gate and momentarily goes out of focus, can be eliminated with ease. What fun!

Gordon Sutton

JOHN WOOLMER

Very sadly John Woolmer died three weeks ago after a short illness.

John and his wife Joan joined Surrey Borders circa 1991, bringing a strong new talent and expertise to the club that resulted in an enthusiasm for making club films and entering competitions as never before. John was a great writer and his stories became great films, winning Gold awards for The Gold Medallion and Paula, and others.

As they left Super 8 behind John mastered his stack of VHS recorders and mixers while pressing the pause button on three remotes at once, painting for art exhibitions, making props for the



next project, writing his book and gleaning data to eventually finalise the book of his family tree, and last but not least, operating the "confounded" computer that held it all together.

He was a very talented fun loving man, who will always be remembered by the club and his family.

Our deepest sympathy goes to Joan and their family.

Pennyj

JUDGING WORKSHOPS

The first judging workshop was held at Dick's in the comfort of his sitting room. Seven members watched the entries put forward from Film in an Evening for the North V South Competition and each member voted their winner. "Blonde Fancy" created by The Eastern Fringe, and "Just In Case" by the Oddbods, were chosen to go through. There was then a round of Jean's scrummy flapjacks and coffee and a great deal of discussion about judging, which showed how "individual" judging can be.

Pennyj

CLUB MEETING

At the October meeting the Inter Club Competition welcomed 12 guests from Staines Cine and Video Society, Southdowns Video & Film Makers, Gosport and Fareham Camcorder Club, and Circle 8.

Each club brought a film for entry into the competition and another film to show, making a

superb evenings entertainment.

Two members of Surrey Border Videomakers were the judges and had the difficult job of finding a winner.

First to show was a short film of 4 minutes, **“Keeping the Flame Alive.”** A very informative film using archives



to relate the history and running into pageantry of a colourful re-enaction with the flaming torches.

“Enoch” The delightful story of a Buddha on the mantelpiece in an elderly couple’s sitting room. After lights out, it glowed appropriately and sent emails to the angels to help the couple to become rich....

“One Day in May” An excellent record of the gipsy annual horse fair held at Wickham on the 20th May each year.

“The Rabbit Woman of Godalming” An amusing and far-fetched period comedy with superb costumery which actually goes down in the history books

as a true story!



After the interval and some tasty refreshments **the winner, “Keeping the Flame Alive”**, gained the trophy for Staines Video Society.

Five more short films were shown bringing a very enjoyable evening to a close.

Thanks go to everyone who helped to make the evening a success.

Pennyj

A DAMP SQUIB!

I don’t know about you, but I get very annoyed when the end credits of a programme are squeezed down to illegible proportions, usually at the point that you might wish to see them in full, in order to ‘promote’ a forthcoming programme, Apparently I am not alone, and in fact there have been more complaints to the BBC about this matter than there have been complaints about the Jonathan Ross and ‘thingy’ recent ‘hoo ha’. Of course they will only act on the latter, as the former is not ‘Headline’ news.

So what has this got to do with us, and our Club? Well, credits in the amateur word seem to be considered necessary, perhaps to just ape the professional world, but we differ in one major respect that we sometimes have the good fortune to show our productions to an audience, and we are incredibly flattered if the audience applaud, at the conclusion of the production.

Now I feel that many of us are not making the most of the opportunity to enjoy the applause, simply because our audience aren’t certain where or when to show their appreciation.


I have enjoyed many an amateur production very justly deserving of applause, but I haven’t known quite when slap one hand against the other. This has been because of the end ‘credits’, which never seem to come to a conclusion, and drift on and on endlessly. By the time they have finished, so has my inclination to applaud.

We have all seen professional productions with credits at the start, with Director, Producer, Associate Producer, (I counted thirteen associate producers the other night), names being slipped in surreptitiously during the opening action, and then perhaps a minute into the action the title appears! Of course the 007 films have absolutely wonderful opening captions, quite as mesmerising as the hyped up action that is to follow.

So where do we go from here? Well may I suggest that our ‘credits’ should come at the beginning perhaps in page form, you remember like they used to do in old films, with as many as 15 lines of credits, per page. The end should be indicted in some obvious manner, perhaps with a

caption or even the statement ‘Fin’, ‘The End’, or whatever, but don’t let your production end like a damp squib, do go out with a bang.

DICK HIBBERD ‘THE END’



Noticeboard

NEW SURREY BORDER NOTICEBOARD

Fred Hawkins, Training Officer, is responsible for the Noticeboard on each club night. Sometimes members do not get a chance to actually look at the notices during busy club evenings, or they miss opportunities because they are away, so in future, if there are relevant notices regarding training, requests for film crews, brainstorming session etc., Fred will send out a blanket email to all members to keep them informed. It will then be up to you to contact the relevant person. Do not contact Fred.

SBFVM JUDGING SEMINARS

Following our invitation to judge a South Coast Triangle competition, Penny Johnson, in her role as Competitions Secretary, organised a couple of judging workshops during October, at the first of which we reviewed aspects of film making that the judges should be assessing; and as a practical exercise, judged the four possible entries (remade from this year's Film-in-an-Evening exercises on the North v South theme "Be Prepared").

By universal agreement, "Blond Fancy" by the Eastern Fringe Group was selected for the Club Entry, together with the recommendation that "Just in Case" should also be submitted independently by the Oddbods Group. (Both these films have now been submitted by the entry date.)

At the second of these workshops, the group reviewed three previous competition entries by Club Members, creating their own judging comments, before comparing them with the written comments received by Competition Judges on each film; all very instructive!

The overwhelming conclusion arising from these sessions was that there would be tremendous benefit in holding such a mock judging session for all future Club Film Projects, but PRIOR to the final Editing Session – as so many potential improvements to the editing were suggested at each of these sessions but they were too late to influence the final production!

Paul Holden

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"Does the film achieve what it set out to do?" was the big question.

All the technicalities are no good if the film isn't interesting.

Don't be biased because you like the subject.

Pennyj

NATIONAL AGM WEEKEND

Both David Jackson and Paul Holden attended the National AGM Weekend at Milton Keynes, hosted by the North Thames Region, and including the Mermaid and Mini-Mermaid competitions. (David and Vicky attended because David was presenting half of a Technical Forum on the Saturday, and Paul went because he wanted to listen to it!)

The Friday afternoon started with a coach visit to Bletchley Park, only about 12 miles away, and now converted into an excellent museum about "Station X", complete with fully working reconstructions

both of the Bombes which helped to break the Enigma codes, and Colossus, the world's first semi-programmable electronic computer, built to break the even more complex Lorenz cipher code. Friday evening concluded with an excellent programme of films from around the North Thames Region.

Whilst those less interested in the Technical Forum on Saturday went

on a coach visit to Woburn Safari Park, in one large room upstairs DVC demonstrated Edius, HD and Blue Ray, Media Composer, and plug-ins for image stabilisation, animated titling and sophisticated effects. (Ordinary mortals might be mildly amused to discover that even DVC suffered a Hard Disk failure during the day!)

But for me, the highlight of the weekend was the Technical Forum presented, in the other large room upstairs, by David Jackson and Tom Hardwick, known throughout the movement for their on-line editing courses and equipment review

articles respectively. They shared both the morning and afternoon sessions, half each – David covering the capture and management of clips using Scenalyser prior to NLE editing; and features of Premiere Pro CS3, Encore and After Effects that might tempt anyone to upgrade their Software!

In Tom's two presentations, he discussed his choice of camcorders,

recording media, microphones, lights, tripods and accessories, and talked expressively about how he goes about shooting and editing weddings, and any other one-off events where failed clips cannot be replaced – and his strategy for ensuring back-up video and sound sources, plus all sorts of tips about how to anticipate and prepare for what might happen next, whilst still busy shooting what's happening now!

Sunday morning covered the Mermaid and Mini-Mermaid competitions, judged by the audience, and the AGM, where they were able to report how the Council have turned round the annual accounts to cope with a falling membership. I am sure you will also be as delighted as I was to see Terry Patrick elected again to the Council after many years in "retirement", and Reg Lancaster installed as the new President. And in the afternoon, we were treated to a first class presentation by Andrew Vale, a very experienced TV Director-cameraman, who now trains BBC staff in camera craft, lighting, sound, directing and editing.

I am ashamed to say that this is the first AGM weekend I have attended in living memory - but it certainly won't be the last. I hope I can persuade some others from the Club to join me next year, hosted by the North East Region at Harrogate, from 22 – 25th October 2009.

Paul Holden

WINTER DRAWS ON

Feeling chilly?

Like to be at the top of the 'Best Dressed' list?

Just purchase a SBFVM stylish sweatshirt and feel the difference

Pauline Tate

P.S. Would someone like to look after the sweatshirts while we are away?



MEETINGS are held at St Joan's Centre, 19 Tilford Road, Farnham on the 1st Friday of each month at 7.30pm for 7.45pm. Meetings close around 10.15pm

New members are very welcome, either phone 01252 717877 or turn up at the door!

St Joan's Centre is 200 yards south of Farnham station and is in the grounds of St Joan's Church. The entrance to the church is by a narrow road opposite the junction with Alfred Road, and St Joan's Centre is to the right of the church. There is ample parking.



COMPETITIONS

All details and entry forms of the following competitions can be found on the IAC website.

Competition	Closing Date	Festival Date
Frome 5 minute	28 January 09	5 April 09
Croatian 1 minute	18 April 09	30/31 May 09
North V South Southern Heat <i>(see notice board)</i>	1st November	23 November
Surrey Festival <i>(see notice board)</i>	15 December	18 January 09

Events

North V South Southern Heat 23 November Farnborough village hall, Kent

PLEASE HAND IN YOUR ENTRIES FOR OUR OWN DECEMBER COMPETITION AT THE NOVEMBER MEETING to MIKE or PENNY
Remember no more than 6 minutes.

Surrey Film Festival is inviting everyone to send in their entries for the festival by the 15th December. The festival will be held at The Electric Theatre, Guildford, on Sunday 18th January 2009.

A note for your diary

Just to let you know that next year's **Albany Competition** will be held on Sunday 19 April 2009 at the Newell Centre Hall, Chichester. (Same venue as this year)

Doors open at 2:00 for show to start at 2:30

21-29 March 2009 FIFA (Wildlife) Festival. Held at Albert in Northern France.

CLUB DATES

- Nov 7** Chairman's Night - 'My Cut & Splice Days of Film Making'
- Dec 5** Annual Members' Club Competition - Judges David and Jan Watterson

DIARY DATES

- Nov 12** SBFVM judging at Chichester
- Dec 7** Christmas Lunch

MISCELLANY

- The Chairman is currently acting as Treasurer until the AGM in Feb 2009.
- **The venue for our December club night will now be St Joan's Centre and not as previously notified.**
- If anyone has any camera or editing questions, don't forget to ask Fred - he will put you in touch with the right person to help you out.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

Name:

Telephone:

Email: